

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A piece of baggage, the piece of baggage comprising:

a baggage portion having an internal compartment;

a towing handle;

a single-pole ~~telescoping~~ arm having a distal and a proximal end with two ends, a length therebetween, ~~and a center axis defined by said length~~, said arm operatively connected ~~to said towing handle at a first of said two ends and to said piece of baggage at said proximal end, a second of said two ends~~, said arm portion being ~~telescopically~~ movable between extended and retracted positions such that the towing handle is closer to the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position;

a pivot mechanism connecting the towing handle to said distal end of said arm in a manner that allows the towing handle to be pivoted generally about said ~~center axis relative to distal end of said arm~~; and

a locking mechanism connected to said pivot mechanism and ~~operatively connected to said towing handle and said arm, said locking mechanism being and that is~~ selectively moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position relative to said arm when said arm is in said extended position;

wherein said locking mechanism operates to limit ~~limiting~~ the pivoting of said towing handle about said distal end of said arm ~~center axis~~ when in said locked position and does not so

~~limit limiting~~ the pivoting of said towing handle about said distal end of said arm ~~the center axis~~
when in said unlocked position.

9. (Previously Presented) The piece of luggage of claim 8, wherein: said piece of luggage further comprises:

a release button, said release button being configured and adapted to move said locking mechanism from said locked position to said unlocked position when said release button is pressed.

10. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 9 wherein: said arm is selectively lockable in said extended position and said retracted position and said release button must also be pressed to move said arm between said extended position and said retracted position.

11. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 10, wherein: said release button is provided on said towing handle.

12. (Previously Presented) The piece of baggage of claim 9, wherein: said release button is provided on said towing handle.

13. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein: said pivot mechanism allows said towing handle to rotate at least 360 degrees ~~about said center axis~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim 8, wherein: said towing handle is T-shaped and has an elongated hand grip with opposite ends and a stem that intersects and projects from the hand grip intermediate said hand grip opposite ends, and a said center-axis of said single-pole arm is generally co-linear to an axis passing through said stem and generally perpendicular to said hand grip.

15. (Currently Amended) The piece of baggage of claim 14 8 further comprising:

at least two wheels mounted to the baggage portion for rotation about a wheel axis relative to the baggage portion;

wherein said center-axis is generally perpendicular to said wheel axis.

16. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 8 wherein said motion between said extended and said retracted positions is telescoping motion.

17. (New) A piece of baggage, the piece of baggage comprising:

a baggage portion having an internal compartment;

a towing handle;

an arm having a distal and a proximal end with a length therebetween, and a center-axis defined by said length, said arm operatively connected to said piece of baggage at said proximal end, said arm portion being movable between extended and retracted positions such that the towing handle is closer to the piece of baggage when the arm is in the retracted position than when the arm is in the extended position;

a pivot mechanism connecting the towing handle to said distal end of said arm in a manner that allows the towing handle to be pivoted generally about said distal end of said arm and about an axis of rotation generally parallel to said center-axis; and

a locking mechanism connected to said pivot mechanism and said arm, said locking mechanism being selectively moveable between a locked position and an unlocked position relative to said arm when said arm is in said extended position;

wherein said locking mechanism operates to limit the pivoting of said towing handle about said distal end of said arm when in said locked position and does not so limit the pivoting of said towing handle about said distal end of said arm when in said unlocked position.

18. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 17 wherein said motion between said extended and said retracted positions is telescoping motion.

19. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 17 wherein said axis of rotation is co-linear with said center-axis

20. (New) The piece of baggage of claim 17 further comprising a second arm which moves in conjunction with said arm between said extend and said retracted position, said towing handle also pivoting relative to said distal end of said second arm.